IV.—GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

(1) STATEMENT OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR EXCESS EXPENDITURE IN 1957–58.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, I rise to present the statement of Demands for Grants for excess expenditure in the year 1957–58. The appropriations originally provided for in the Budget Estimates cannot in the nature of things be expected to tally entirely with the actuals, and excesses under some grants are inevitable. The total of the excesses of expenditure under voted grants which is now sought to be covered by legislative approval is Rs. 107 lakhs roundly against a total final appropriation of Rs. 16,027 lakhs. The Explanatory note and the annexure appended to the statement of demands give in full the reasons for the excess in each case. The Public Accounts Committee constituted for the year 1959–60 at their meeting held during the course of the year examined the reasons for the excesses and have recommended in their Report published in August 1960 that demands for grants to cover the excess expenditure over the final sanctioned appropriation under each grant might be presented to the Legislative Assembly.

I commend for the acceptance of the House the statement of Demands for Grants for excess expenditure in the year 1957–58.

(2) FINAL SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1960–61.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, I rise to present the Final Supplementary Estimates for the year 1960–61. The Supplementary demand before the House is for Rs. 24·69 crores out of which Rs. 11·02 crores is on the Revenue Account, Rs. 8·43 crores is on the Capital Account and the balance of Rs. 5·24 crores under " Loans and Advances ".

The Revised Estimates for 1960–61 have been presented to the House along with the Budget for 1961–62. The Final Supplementaries have been drawn up on the basis of the actual requirements for the year under various heads which closely follow the Revised Estimates for 1960–61.

A study of the detailed explanatory statement placed before the House will show that the demands for further expenditure are mainly under development heads.

Revenue Account.

The appropriation of Rs. 1·15 crores under Education reflects larger requirements under Teaching Grants (Rs. 47 lakhs), under the Mid-day Meals Scheme (Rs. 6 lakhs) and for the expansion of N.C.C. (Rs. 12 lakhs).

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A sum of Rs. one crore has been asked for under "Harijan Welfare" where ther has been a substantial step up in expenditure in the current year. Out of this Rs. 24 lakhs are required for Houses and House-sites and Rs. 36 lakhs for the Scholarship Programme.

An item of special interest is the demand for an additional sum of Rs. 80 lakhs under Local Development Works in which the outlay in the current year is expected to reach Rs. one crore exclusive of the contribution in kind and labour from the public of Rs. 13 lakhs approximately. As hon. Members are aware, the programme now extends to Rural Water-Supply Works, Road Works, and the construction of Village School Buildings.

Apart from "Suspense" heads, the main item of additional expenditure in "Civil Works" is the additional provision of Rs. 50 lakhs for maintenance and repairs. This includes Rs. 15 lakhs for flood repairs, Rs. 5 lakhs for the Roads in Tiruttani area and Rs. 25 lakhs for the improvement of important bus routes and other rural roads in order that they may be handed over to Panchayat Unions in good condition.

While presenting the last Supplementary Estimates, I had referred to the provisions made for the implementation of the new Panchayat Reform. An important provision in this regard is the demand in the present Supplementaries of Rs. 36 lakhs as grants to Village Panchayats to match the house tax levied by them. Largely on account of this matching provision in the new Panchayats Act, the total house tax levied by Panchayats in the State has nearly doubled from Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 36 lakhs in the current year. I am sure that this encouraging trend will be welcomed by all sections of the House.

An additional transfer of Rs. 27 lakhs to Local Bodies has been provided for under "Entertainments Tax" in accordance with the increased receipts under this head.

The other significant provisions made for development expenditure in the Revenue Account are : Rs. 17 lakhs for more intensive exploitation of Forest produce which is reflected in higher receipts under "Forests" of Rs. 54 lakhs, Rs. 49 lakhs under "Medical" mainly under diet, drugs and hospital equipment consequent on increase in bed strength, Rs. 61 lakhs under "Public Health" mainly for the National Malaria Eradication Programme, Rs. 29 lakhs under "Agriculture" for the intensification of plant protection measures, Rs. 23 lakhs under "Co-operation" and Rs. 10 lakhs under "Animal Husbandry".

Capital Account.

Apart from the gross appropriation under "Suspense" heads which are entirely wiped off by credits, the significant additional provisions in the Capital Account are : Rs. 63 lakhs for the Special 3-20 p.m.

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Minor Irrigation Programme, Rs. 32 lakhs for the Rural Water-supply and Rs. 16 lakhs for National Water-Supply Schemes and Rs. 17 lakhs for Road Works in the backward areas of Ramanathapuram District. Under State Trading Schemes, an extra provision of Rs. 86 lakhs has been made for meeting arrears due to the Government of India towards supply of chemical fertilisers.

Loans and Advances.

The main complaint of the demand under "Loans and Advances" is the additional loan of Rs. 259 lakhs to the State Electricity Board. The original loan requirement for the Board was fixed on the basis of a Capital Outlay of Rs. 12 crores in 1960–61 to be met partly by the Board floating an open market loan of Rs. 3·3 crores. The Capital Outlay on Power is now anticipated to reach Rs. 14 crores in the current year and the Board has not been able to go in for open market borrowing. As a result of these factors, an additional sum of Rs. 259 lakhs to the Electricity Board has become necessary. The demand also includes Rs. 11 lakhs more for the Middle Income Housing Scheme, Rs. 10 lakhs more for the Low Income Housing Scheme and Rs. 11 lakhs more for Weavers' Housing and Industrial Housing Schemes. A Ways and Means advance of Rs. 75 lakhs to the State Khadi Board has been provided. This will be recouped at the end of the current year.

Sir, I have very briefly summarised the important provisions in the Final Supplementary Statement for the current year which reflect the increase in the tempo of expenditure on Plan Schemes. Budgetary control over expenditure is only a device to see that moneys are spent on the right priorities approved by the Legislature and in an economical way. The additional appropriations before the House satisfy these cardinal tests and I am sure the House will therefore welcome and approve them.

With these few words, Sir, I commend the Third Supplementary Estimates for the acceptance of the House.

V.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

(1) THE MADRAS VILLAGE COURTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1961 (L.C. BILL NO. 2 OF 1961).

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I move—

'That the Madras Village Courts (Amendment) Bill,[a] 1961 (L.C. Bill No. 2 of 1961) betaken into consideration'.

Sir, according to section 13 of the Madras Village Courts Act, 1888 (Madras Act I of 1889), village courts can entertain suits up to the value of Rs. 50 only but under section 14 of the Act they

[a] Published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* Extraordinary, dated 8th March 1961.